

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. Unelected claims 1-13 have been canceled without prejudice herein pending the filing of a divisional application. Claims 14 and 18 have been amended herein. Therefore claims 14-26 are now pending in the present application. Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,169,309 to Tegatz, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Tegatz"). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 is amended herein and as amended specifically recites:

A semiconductor device, comprising:

- a substrate having a first conductivity type;
- a buried layer of a second conductivity type disposed in a top portion of said substrate;
- an epitaxial layer of the first conductivity type disposed over said buried layer;
- a lateral double-diffused metal oxide semiconductor (LDMOS) device disposed in the substrate, the LDMOS device including a drain;
- a first guard ring disposed around and proximate the drain of the LDMOS device;
- and
- a second guard ring disposed around the first guard ring.

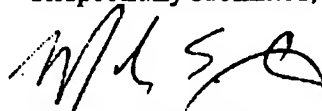
Applicants submit that Tegatz does not show, teach or suggest the above recited elements of Claim 14, particularly the elements of: "...a buried layer of a second conductivity type disposed in a top portion of said substrate;" and "...an epitaxial layer of the first conductivity type disposed over said buried layer;" Accordingly, Claim 14 is allowable over the rejection and the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Claims 15-17 depend from and add additional patentable features to the apparatus of Claim 14 while incorporating the novel features of Claim 14. Accordingly, these dependent claims are also believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance are therefore requested.

The Examiner identified claims 22-26 as allowable over the prior art and claims 18-21 as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge the finding of allowability of the claimed subject matter. Claim 18 has been amended to make the language consistent with the amendments to the parent claim 14, described above. Based upon the amendments and remarks provided herein, Applicants believe that the rejection of the base claims have been overcome and that all pending claims, 14-26, are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully request that the present application be passed to issuance. Please contact Applicants' attorney with any questions regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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